

missing features.

Although applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Publication '635, as well as the Examiner's rationale for combining Kanno and Publication '635, the substance of these are not addressed herein. Rather, it is noted that Publication '635 has a publication date of May 22, 1998, while the present application has a priority date of February 13, 1999. Thus, Publication '635 is not a proper §102 reference for use in this §103 rejection.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn and claims 1-19 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

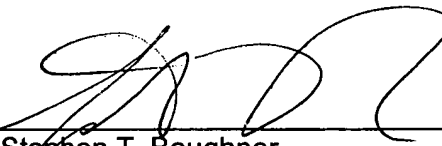
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 6/9/03

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